



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief November 2019

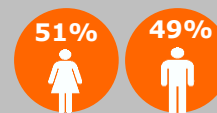
In Numbers

WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

59,517 people assisted
in November 2019

261 mt of food assistance distributed

28,690 USD cash-based transfers made



Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a land-locked, mountainous country located at the centre of the Eurasian continent with a territory of 199,000 sq. km. The country borders China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Two-thirds of the country's multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. 22.4 percent of the population live below the poverty line and according to the "2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in the total population is 23.9 percent (2016-2018).

The country's high dependency on imported basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable food-insecure households, who spend over half of their household income on food-related expenses. Poor food diversification can lead to malnutrition. This translates into 13 percent of children aged 2 to 5 years suffering from stunting. Anaemia prevalence is high, women – 38 percent, children – 43 percent.

The WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018–2022, approved in November 2017 by the Executive Board, focuses on four Strategic Outcomes: providing hot school meals for primary school-aged children; supporting vulnerable and food-insecure smallholders to enhance their livelihoods; strengthening resilience to shocks and climate change for vulnerable communities; and capacity-strengthening of government institutions for a comprehensive food security and nutrition management system.



Population: **6.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **91 out of 189**

Operational Updates

- For the last seven months, WFP has been engaged in the preparation of the High-Level Development Forum 'Accelerating Reforms for Sustainable Development', which was organized by the President's Office and took place on 19 November. The Forum represented an important opportunity for dialogue on various areas of the country's development strategies and programmes between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, development partners, and private sector. Prior to the event, WFP was involved in developing a joint background document to advocate and promote the achievement of SDG 2.
- In November, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) approved the WFP-supported 40-hour educational programme aimed at enhancing the competence of school cooks. The programme, developed by WFP's technical partner, the Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI), will be used as a regular refresher course for school cooks, focusing on food safety, hygiene, preparation techniques and efficiency. Participants will be awarded with certificates from the MoES. The Ministry is currently working on making national budget funds available for the training programme which was previously managed and funded by WFP and Mercy Corps.
- By late November, WFP distributed more than USD 502,000 under the cash-based transfers (CBT) programme to address the food security and nutrition of poor and vulnerable households in five towns. In 2019, more than 4,000 vulnerable households benefitted from various community development projects to create income-generation opportunities and to strengthen capacities in livelihood activities, such as sewing, carpentry, handicrafts-making, farming and others, and to rehabilitate and protect productive assets, such as irrigation systems, dams, drinking water pipelines, etc.
- The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) completed a disaster preparedness training programme for WFP supported schools. The training was provided in accordance with an agreement between WFP, MES, and MoES and covered more than 3,400 participants from 40 schools supported by WFP.

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Photo Caption: Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE) project 2019. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
58.9 m	26.6 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2019 – May 2020)
12.6 m	0 m*

* While the overall 6-month net funding requirement is zero (US\$), the CO still requires US\$0.15 m for SO2 and US\$0.7 m for SO 3.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: All primary school-aged children in the Kyrgyz Republic have access to safe, adequate and nutritious food all year round
Focus area: *Optimizing School Meals*

- Activities:**
- Provide school meals to primary school-aged children and strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement school meals

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable and food insecure smallholders, in particular women, in the most vulnerable geographic areas of the Kyrgyz Republic, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks to better support food security and nutrition needs all year round
Focus area: *Supporting smallholders*

- Activities:**
- Provide support in productive assets creation to vulnerable communities and food insecure smallholders
 - Provide capacity strengthening to food insecure smallholders

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure communities in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change have strengthened food systems and are more resilient to shocks all year round
Focus area: *Resilience building*

- Activities:**
- Provide capacity strengthening to local community members and authorities
 - Provide support for protective and risk reduction assets creation and rehabilitation to communities vulnerable to climate-change and natural disasters

Strategic Result 4: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions at central and decentralized levels have strengthened capacities for comprehensive food security and nutrition management by 2030
Focus area: *Capacity building*

- Activities:**
- Provide capacity strengthening to national institutions
 - Provide evidence-based analysis to relevant national institutions

Monitoring

- More than 100 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools under Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were carried out in November. These schools were visited to assess their capacity to launch the Optimized School Feeding Programme in the 2020-2021 academic year and to discuss future plans with local

authorities. In addition, 335 monitoring visits were conducted by WFP field monitoring assistants and implementing partners to schools of the previous rounds in order to review their menus and canteen conditions. Moreover, the Ministry of Education district specialists conducted 122 visits to the schools of the first five rounds.

- To assess compliance with the targeting criteria under Outcome 2 of the CSP, 42 pre-selected households from field project activities were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility for households that were pre-selected by the District Project Committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, more than 70 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and provide recommendations.
- Fifteen project proposals from the District Project Committees have been submitted. WFP reviews the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in nine rural municipalities.
- In November, no complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline.

Partnerships

- As the chair of the Results Group 1 (Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth) of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2018-2022), WFP drafted the UN Country Team and the Parliament Collaboration Note “The Role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” which was presented to the members of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic in November 2019.
- On 27 November, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WFP conducted their third joint work planning meeting to discuss the results achieved in 2019 and country-level collaboration for 2020-2021. There was a discussion on how FAO and WFP can join efforts in the strategic positioning and strengthening of collaboration in such areas as food security and nutrition, social protection and climate change. Under collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies (RBA), the agencies identified resource mobilization opportunities to increase joint programming, including under the Green Climate Fund, and developed an action plan for 2020-2021.
- In November, WFP established and conducted the official opening of two mini-processing workshops for drying fruits and vegetables in Talas province. Small community-based mini-workshops for drying fruits, wool processing, and dairy and juice production were supported by WFP in two rural districts to reduce post-harvest losses and to improve the value added of agricultural production. The two workshops were supported by funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and co-funded by local authorities. The opening was attended by the Governor of Talas and WFP and KOICA management.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and Sweden.